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Joseph Barlow Forbes, son of Joseph and Sarah Ann Gilpatrick Forbes was born in Bangor, Maine, January 29, 1840. The family later moved to Boston, Massachusetts where Joseph received a liberal education in the schools there. During vacation time, he made several extended voyages to Sicily and around the Cape of Good Hope to India on board his uncle's ship.

When the Civil War broke out, Joseph enlisted in the Union Army and served under General George B. McClellan. He took part in the Battle of Bull Run and in the Peninsular Campaign. He was invalided out of the service in 1863 having been promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Maine Volunteers. Shortly afterward, he was assigned to military duty in California and sailed from Boston around Cape Horn to San Francisco. He served on the staff of General Bidwell as Adjutant General.

In the summer of 1865, he journeyed through Salt Lake City on his way East. Arriving in Utah, he met Brigham Young and was persuaded by him, to open a school in American Fork, Utah. Here he established the first free school in Utah and all of his remaining sixty-two years in the schools of that city with the exception of nine years in Colorado, one year in Weber County, two years at the LDS College in Salt Lake and one year at Midway, Wasatch County, Utah. It was while he taught in the Midway schools that he was baptized a member of the LDS Church by Elder John Huber.

In 1866 he married Nancy Dayton, the

marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. To them were born thirteen children, four sons and nine daughters. He was married to Mary Jane Gardner in 1879 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They became the parents of eleven children, three boys and eight girls.

Because of his long service in the schools of American Fork, a school building was erected in his honor and a monument to him was placed in the city park. In 1921, hundreds of his former pupils from all over the state and nation joined together with his friends in celebrating "Forbes Day," paying him a tribute seldom equaled in any man's life time.

Joseph B. Forbes was not only active in education but also in civic and church affairs, holding many offices in his home town. At his death in May, 1927, flags on public buildings flew at halfmast. As the funeral cortege passed through the streets to the tabernacle, hundreds of school children lined both sides of the street, each placing a flower on his casket.

Of his large family, seven girls survive him at the present time. They are: Mrs. Robert (Emily) Sweeten, Mrs. William (Olive) Young, and Mrs. James (Ruby) White of Salt Lake City; Mrs. Henry (Ellen) Maag of Provo, Mrs. Joseph (Ida) Nielsen of Idaho Falls and Mrs. Cortez (Lenore) Christensen of Shelley, Idaho and Mrs. Don (Kathryn) Clyde of Heber City, Utah.

## ELI AND ELIZABETH ANN NELSON GORDON



Eli Gordon was born at Richmond, Virginia, Aug. 26, 1847. He married Elizabeth Ann Nelson, born on February 29, 1852, daughter of Henry and Sarah Ann Richmond Nelson. Elizabeth Ann passed away September 3, 1920, and Eli died June 1, 1922.

Eli was a veteran of the Civil War, having fought for the North, while his father and brother defended the cause of the South.

At the close of the war he came to Utah, where he later married.

He and his wife moved to Wasatch County and lived in Heber and Charleston until about 1886, when they moved with their

seven children up into Daniel Canyon. Four more children were born there.

The Gordon home in the canyon was one large log room with a lean-to built on for a kitchen, and was located close to Indian Flat. The Swen Bjorkman family lived below them, so when Esther Bjorkman passed away and Swen left the canyon home, the Gordons moved into his home.

Their acreage was small, but was cultivated for hay, grain and garden crops. There was only canyon water to depend on then and sometimes in the summer there was very little to use. They had a small flock of sheep and some cows.

The Indians were numerous and could not be trusted, but the Gordons were friendly with them and shared with them their scarce and much-needed food. Jim Bridger and his squaw and an Indian called Tabby often came to their home.

One night, while the family was at the supper table, Elizabeth Ann and the children were terrified to see three Indian faces pressed on the window panes. On going out to see what they wanted, Eli found they were friends and that one was suffering from snow blindness. They had traveled all day on web-shoes with the bright sun reflecting back on their faces from the crusted snow. Eli took them in and sat up all night applying packs to the eyes of the afflicted one and in doing so gained their friendship.

Their life in the canyon was hard, but there were happy memories for those who are left to remember.

Elizabeth Ann suffered with a bone disease and had walked with crutches since she was a child. Many times for supper she would set a pan of rich, creamy milk in the center of the table, break some good homemade bread into it and give each child a spoon to eat with, thus eliminating the chore of washing a lot of dishes.

All that is left of their eight or so years in Daniels Canyon is a place called Gordon Twist.

Eli went on a two-year mission to Virginia and the Carolinas. He worked one winter at a mine in American Fork Canyon. He walked with others over the mountains to come home, his toes so badly frozen they had to be amputated, which was done with a meat saw.

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